



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Region 5  
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Illinois, Indiana  
Michigan, Minnesota  
Ohio, Wisconsin

# Final Cleanup to Begin Site Available for Reuse this Fall

**Master Metals Inc.**  
Cleveland, Ohio

March 2003

## For more information

To learn more about the Master Metals cleanup take a look at the documents in the library:

**Cleveland Public Library  
Jefferson Branch  
850 Jefferson Ave.  
Cleveland, OH**

Please visit EPA's Web site at [epa.gov/region5/sites/mastermetals](http://epa.gov/region5/sites/mastermetals) or call:

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will soon oversee the final cleanup of the former Master Metals Inc. property, located on West Third Street. The cleanup will lower the risk from the metal lead. The work will complete a 1997 cleanup done to demolish and take away unsafe and contaminated buildings, debris and machinery. Soil containing lead higher than EPA allows in industrial areas will be trucked from the site, and the concrete will be repaired. Once the final cleanup is finished, the property will be reused by the new property tenant, Northern Ohio Lumber and Timber Co.

## Cleanup activities

EPA recently approved a work plan prepared by 48 companies that EPA considers legally responsible for the cleanup. The work plan describes how the cleanup will take place. The cleanup activities are as follows:

- Clear trees and brush and demolish concrete walls. Concrete slab that is in good shape will remain. The former office building and historic railroad roundhouse will also be left in place.
- Dig up site soil not covered by concrete, including soil outside the fence that has lead higher than EPA standards for industrial areas.
- Place the dug-up soil into a container and mix with additives. The additives will keep lead locked into the soil so it can be safely disposed in a landfill.
- If necessary, place some of the treated soil in low areas and pits to be covered later by asphalt. Remaining soil will be trucked away and disposed of in a landfill.
- Contaminated soil that was dug up from Holmden Avenue properties in 1997 and has been stored on the site will also be trucked to the landfill.
- Inspect remaining concrete slab and repair and seal cracks and broken areas.
- Pour asphalt over most of the property. The asphalt will be at least 4 inches thick and sloped to allow water to drain to sewers. The asphalt will protect people and animals from coming in contact with remaining contamination. It will also keep any contamination underneath from entering the air or water.
- Place clean fill material and 6 inches of topsoil in the dug-up areas not under the concrete slab and asphalt. Landscape and install a new fence around the property.
- Give EPA regular written progress reports on the cleanup activities.

Contractors for the companies responsible for the cleanup will do the work. EPA and Ohio EPA will oversee and approve the work.

### About the Master Metals Inc. site

The 4-acre Master Metals Inc. site, located on West Third Street in Cleveland's industrial flats, is the site of a former lead smelter. NL Lead Industries Inc. operated the facility until 1979 when it sold the plant to Master Metals Inc. Ohio EPA shut the facility down in 1993 after a long history of air-quality and other violations. The property is vacant except for a two-story office building and a historic roundhouse once used for repairing train cars. Concrete foundations of buildings demolished in 1997 remain on the site.

EPA began studying contamination at the property in 1992. Various studies over the next few years showed high levels of lead in the ground water and soil. EPA found parties that could be held liable for the cleanup under the federal Superfund law. In 1997 EPA oversaw the excavation, demolition and removal of highly contaminated buildings, structures, soil, loose waste materials, demolition debris, machinery, drums, barrels and tanks from the Master Metals Inc. property. Contaminated soil used as fill on residential properties on Holmden Avenue was dug up and taken to the site for temporary storage. EPA, Ohio EPA, the responsible parties, the City of Cleveland and the new property owner have been working together to develop a cleanup plan that would allow the reuse of this contaminated property.

### Cleanup to begin mid-March

The cleanup work is scheduled to begin mid-March, weather permitting, and last through the end of May. Once work on the site is complete, the companies will prepare a report for EPA review and approval, and the site will be inspected. EPA expects the work will be completed this summer so the new tenant can reuse the property. EPA will require the new owner regularly inspect and, if needed, repair the asphalt and concrete even after other work on the property is complete. This will prevent contaminated soil underneath from being exposed.

**Master Metals Inc.: Final Cleanup to Begin Soon**

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